

2011 Metro USTA League Spring-Summer Regional Playoff Regulations

Congratulations on a successful season and reaching the playoffs. Captains should review the following regulations with their players PRIOR to their matches.

Venue: Matches will be played outdoors at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. *For directions, visit www.metrotennis.com.* In case of rain, do NOT assume your match is cancelled. Tournament staff may elect to resume play when the weather clears, re-schedule or move the matches to another location. Captains will be contacted when a decision has been made.

Playoff Format: This is a round-robin tournament. Each team will play the other teams at their level once. Each court is worth 1 point. The team that wins 2 or more courts wins the match. The team from each level with the most match wins advances to the Section Championships in Schenectady on June 3 – 5.

Schedule: The match schedule is attached. **Matches may start earlier than the scheduled time.**

Eligibility: Playoff players must have 2 local matches recorded. Only 1 default may count towards eligibility. Each team must have a minimum of 6 players (3 men & 3 women) available for each match in order to participate in the Regional Playoff's.

Players who play on more than one team, at the same NTRP level, in different regions in the Eastern Section must declare which team they will represent should more than one team qualify for regional championships. A player who participates in this regional championship, may not play for another team until their Metro team has been eliminated. (see Eastern Rule III G for additional details).

All players must have government issued photo ID. Random checks will be done throughout the tournament.

Check-in and Scorecards:

Captains are required to check in at the tournament desk upon arrival. The tournament desk will be located at Court 13. Captains must **present their lineup 30 minutes prior to their scheduled match time.** If a player is late, the captain must put the missing player in the 3rd doubles position before the lineup is submitted.

All match times are approximate except for the first match of the day. Matches will be called as the courts become available. The default time (15 minutes) starts when the court is called.

All players must be present and ready to play 30 minutes prior to the start of their match.

When the court is called, all players must report to the tournament desk, introduce themselves to their opponent and then proceed immediately to their court. Players who delay the start of a match will have a penalty point accessed.

IMPORTANT: Players will receive a 30 minute rest period between matches at the same level. Players who elect to play at 2 levels are NOT entitled to a rest period.

Officials:

USTA roving umpires will be present during the matches to maintain warm-up and rest periods, resolve disputes and enforce the rules of tennis. Officials will call foot-faults and penalize code violations. A referee will be present to answer questions about tennis rules.

Match details:

Warm up: 10 minutes, including serves.

Games are regular scoring, with a tie-break (first to 7pts) when 6-6 in games is reached during the first 2 sets. If you split sets, a 10-point tiebreak will be played in lieu of the 3rd set. In doubles, order of serve and receiving order can be changed after each set.

Coman tie-break procedure is used for all tie-breaks: players change ends after the 1st point and after every 4 points thereafter.

Breaks: A 2 minute break is permitted between the 1st and 2nd set. Play is continuous between the 2nd set and 3rd set tiebreak unless there is a changeover. A maximum of 90 seconds is allowed on changeovers, 20 seconds between points.

All matches are played to completion. All players (winners and losers) are required to turn in the balls and report their scores to the tournament desk IMMEDIATELY upon completion of their match.

BOTH captains must sign the scorecards after all courts are completed.

Player Etiquette: Players must follow the USTA Code of Conduct at all times.

The warm-up is not a practice. Players should make an effort to hit shots directly to the opponent. A player who returns serves should return them at a moderate pace in a manner that does not disrupt the server.

The server must call the score loudly and clearly before each serve. Players are responsible for making sure they have heard and understood the score. If all players on a court forget the score, go back to the point that everyone agrees on.

Make all line calls clearly and immediately on your side of the court. If there is doubt, the ball is good. (A ball that is 99% out is still 100% in). Officials will overrule bad line calls.

All cell phones and electronic devices must be turned off during matches. Officials will penalize any player who violates this rule.

Bathroom breaks may be taken, but should be on a changeover and with the official's knowledge. Players may not talk to their teammates, coaches or spectators during this break.

Spectator Etiquette

Spectators, family and team members are encouraged to attend our playoffs, as long as they abide by the following:

- **May not** talk to players on the court. Coaching is not allowed, and talking to players will be treated as coaching.
- **May not** comment or make visual signals on line calls.
- **May not** cause any distractions to the players.
- **May not** engage in any form of verbal abuse against players, spectators, or tournament staff.
- **Must** limit clapping and cheering as it disrupts play on adjacent courts.
- **MUST** turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.
- **May not** approach the officials to discuss matters relating to play or the players. They may, upon the request of a player, alert the official that a court needs assistance.
- **May not use flash photography nor videotape matches.**
- **May not enter any tournament court without the permission of the tournament staff.**

Spectators who violate these rules will be asked to leave. A warning and/or a penalty may apply as a result of any player, captain or spectator interfering with match play and abusing the code of conduct. This includes disruptive behavior on or off the court. Sp

Refreshments

The tournament staff will provide snacks (i.e. bananas, granola bars) for the players. Please make sure your players bring their own water and any other dietary requirements.